

October 12, 2025 - Today's Movie - Troy (2004)

Agamemnon declares that he will take Troy regardless of the cost. Concerned, Odysseus concocts a plan to infiltrate the city: he has the Greeks build a [Trojan Horse](#) as a peace offering and abandon the Trojan beach, hiding their ships in a nearby cove. Priam orders the horse be brought into the city. That night, Greeks hiding inside the horse emerge and open the city gates for the Greek army, commencing the [Sack of Troy](#).

The Trojan War

THE WOODEN HORSE

(*"The wooden horse"*) (*"in the Odyssey"*) (*"covered at length"*) (*"Virgil's Aeneid"*)

The construction of the Trojan horse is treated cursorily in the *Odyssey*; it is, however, covered at length in Virgil's Aeneid. After years of setting sieges and making raids on Troy, the Greeks were tired and disheartened. Counseled by Ulysses, who was their wisest commander, they decided to build an enormous wooden horse, as big as a mountain, and hide the boldest Greek warriors inside its empty belly. (*"Hungry Horse"*)

Epeus, a Greek leader from Phocis, built the horse with the help of Minerva. The construction was left on the beach, and the Greeks pretended to have given up on their endeavor and hid on a nearby island. At first uncertain about what to do, and notwithstanding the many warnings of Laocoön (see p. 702), the Trojans decided to bring the horse inside the city. The following night, at a given signal, the Greeks again came ashore while the warriors inside the horse came out and opened the city gates; this done, the city of Troy was theirs.

□ In this bas-relief, the Trojan horse is shown with the Greek warriors hiding inside. Some are about to jump out, like the warrior who throws his weapons outside with the help of his comrades.

THE TROJAN HORSE
(detail)
Amphora
7th century BC
696 Archaeological Museum, Mykonos



TROILUS AND CRISEYDE

Nations headed by three secretaries-general instead of one. See also COLD WAR (The Troika Proposal).

TROILUS AND CRISEYDE. See CHAUCER, GEOFFREY.

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, TRWAH REE VYAIR, or THREE RIVERS, Quebec (pop. 52,518), is an industrial and commercial center. It lies on the north shore of the Saint Lawrence River, at the mouth of the Saint Maurice River (see QUEBEC [political map]). The Bécancour River flows just east of it. The city has a fine harbor, and is close to the water power and raw materials its factories need. Industries include pulp and paper mills, iron foundries, a cotton mill, electric lamp mill, boot and shoe factories, and clothing plants. The city is the world's newsprint center. Sieur de Laviolette founded Trois-Rivières in 1634. The city was the leading French fur-trading post in Canada for many years. It has a mayor-council government.

MURRAY G. BALLANTYNE

TROJAN HORSE. See TROJAN WAR; MYTHOLOGY (picture).

TROJAN WAR was a conflict in which ancient Greece defeated the city of Troy. The war, which probably took place during the 1100's or 1200's B.C., inspired many leading works of classical literature. Some of the events that occurred during and after the Trojan War became the subject of three great epic poems. These poems are the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* by the Greek poet Homer and the *Aeneid* by the Roman poet Virgil. The heroes and victims of the war were portrayed in such Greek tragedies as *Agamemnon* by Aeschylus, *Ajax* by Sophocles, and *The Trojan Women* by Euripides.

Scholars know little about the actual Trojan War. Their knowledge of the war comes chiefly from the epics of Homer and Virgil, which are largely fictional. These poetic accounts combine historical facts with material from Greek legends and myths. But archaeologists have found historical evidence in the ruins of Troy and other cities that confirms certain events described by the poets.

The Beginning of the War. According to ancient Greek myths, the Trojan War resulted from an incident at the wedding feast of Peleus, the king of Thessaly, and Thetis, a sea goddess. All the gods and goddesses of Mount Olympus had been invited except Eris, the goddess of discord. Eris was offended and tried to stir up trouble among the guests at the feast. She sent a golden apple inscribed "For the most beautiful." Three goddesses—Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite—each claimed the apple, and a quarrel began. Paris, the son of King Priam of Troy, judged the dispute. He awarded the apple to Aphrodite because she had promised him Helen, the most beautiful woman in the world.

Helen was already married to King Menelaus of Sparta. But when Paris visited her, she fled with him to Troy. Menelaus and his brother, Agamemnon, organized a large Greek expedition against Troy to win Helen back. The Greek army included such heroes as Achilles, Ajax the Greater, Nestor, and Odysseus (Ulysses in Latin).

The Siege of Troy. The Greek army laid siege to Troy for 10 years but could not conquer the city. The *Iliad* describes some of the events that occurred during the last year of the struggle. The war began to go badly for the Greeks after Achilles, their bravest warrior,

left the battlefield. Achilles refused to fight because Agamemnon, the Greek commander, had insulted him. The Trojans, led by Hector, drove the Greeks back to their ships. Achilles finally returned to combat after his best friend, Patroclus, had been slain by Hector. Achilles killed Hector to avenge Patroclus' death.

The *Iliad* ends with Hector's burial, and Greek legends relate events that followed. The Trojans received help from their allies, the Ethiopians and an army of women warriors called Amazons. But Achilles enabled the Greeks to defeat their enemies by killing Penthesilea, the queen of the Amazons, and Memnon, the king of the Ethiopians. Paris, aided by the god Apollo, later wounded Achilles fatally.

The Fall of Troy is described in the *Aeneid*. The Greeks built a huge wooden horse, which has become known as the *Trojan horse*, and placed it outside the walls of Troy. Odysseus and some other warriors hid inside the horse while the rest of the Greek army sailed away.

The prophetess Cassandra and the priest Laocoön warned the Trojans against taking the horse into their city. But Sinon, a Greek prisoner, persuaded them that the horse was sacred and would bring the protection of the gods. The Trojans then pulled the horse into Troy. That night, they fell asleep after celebrating their apparent victory. The Greeks then crept out of the horse and opened the city gates for the rest of their warriors, who had returned from a nearby island.

The Greeks took back Helen, slaughtered almost all the Trojans, and burned Troy. According to the *Aeneid*, the few Trojan survivors included the warrior Aeneas, whose descendants founded Rome. ROBERT J. LENARDON

Related Articles in WORLD BOOK include:

Achilles	Andromache	Iliad	Paris
Aeneas	Cassandra	Laocoön	Priam
Aeneid	Hector	Menelaus	Troy
Agamemnon	Helen of Troy	Odyssey	Ulysses
Ajax			

TROLL. See FAIRY.

TROLLEY. See ELECTRIC RAILROAD; STREETCAR.

TROLLING. See FISHING INDUSTRY (Luring).

TROLLOPE, ANTHONY (1815-1882), was a popular English novelist of the 1800's. He was over 30 years old when he published his first book. But after he started, he wrote with such regularity that his novels and tales fill more than 50 volumes.

Trollope's most famous books are the "Barsetshire Novels." These six stories about life in the imaginary county of Barsetshire, and especially the cathedral city of Barchester, are mildly satirical. But their tone shows Trollope's affectionate tolerance for the weaknesses of his basically generous and well-meaning characters. Trollope had so fine an imagination and so clear an idea of his creation that he could draw a map of Barsetshire.

The Barsetshire novels are *The Warden* (1855), *Barchester Towers* (1857), *Doctor Thorne* (1858), *Framley Parsonage* (1861), *The Small House at Allington* (1864), and *The Last Chronicle of Barset* (1867). Trollope's other works include social satire novels, such as *The Bertrams* (1859) and *The Way We Live Now* (1875); political novels, such as *The Eustace Diamonds* (1873); and novels of psychological analysis, such as *Cousin Henry* (1879).

Trollope was born in London. In his autobiography,

